

**FRMS Trooper
'A team' wins***High-scoring fourth
quarter defeats
Anthony Middle School*

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Fort Riley Post

**Nemechek
optimistic***NASCAR team talks
positively about next
season*

Page 11



Friday, December 10, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 47, No. 49

**Around
The Army****Fort Rucker:**

The Flier reported Dec. 9 that Fort Rucker will implement an ergonomics program designed to reduce the number of disorders associated with work-related musculoskeletal disorder.

This measure is designed to reduce the amount of worker compensation claims and associated costs and improve overall unit readiness and increase the overall productivity at Fort Rucker.

"What we will try to do with the program is increase the level of awareness within Fort Rucker. We are pushing to get training down to the unit level," said Lt. Col. Marie Price, chief of Fort Rucker's Preventive Medicine Service.

For more on this story and other Fort Rucker news, visit www.armyflieger.com/ on the Web.

Fort Knox:

The Turret reported Dec. 2 that the Army has restructured the combatives program to better prepare Soldiers for situations on the battlefield where hand-to-hand combat is the only option.

"The main reasons for the changes in the program come from the lessons learned in Iraq," said Staff Sgt. Eric Hankins of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 81st Armor Regiment.

Though the training is difficult and intense, with one or two students being injured in each class, Hankins said the benefits of every Soldier knowing the same fighting techniques help make the Army a more lethal force.

For more on this story and other Fort Knox news, visit www.thenewsenquirer.com/turret/ on the Web.

Fort Myer:

The Pentagon reported Dec. 3 that The Defense Department would increase the number of troops in Iraq by 12,000. Joint Staff officials said at a Pentagon news conference Dec. 1.

Two Army brigades, a Marine expeditionary unit and an Army transportation company have been extended. The 2nd and 3rd battalions from the 82nd Airborne Division's 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment will deploy from Fort Bragg, N.C., Dec. 15 to serve in Baghdad for 120 days.

For more on this story and other Fort Myer and Pentagon news, visit www.dcmilitary.com/army/pentagram/index.html on the Web.

Heidelberg:

The Herald-Post reported Dec. 9 that Darmstadt and Babenhäuser residents were taking steps to help make the season brighter and show support for Bundeswehr Soldiers guarding their installations.

Residents are being asked to share their Christmas Eve or Christmas Day meal with German Soldiers and drop off cookies, candy, cakes, hot chocolate and other Christmas goodies at Cambrai-Fritsch Kaserne, at the Kelley Barracks main gate guard post or in Babenhäuser.

For more on this story and other Army news in Germany, visit www.26thasg.heidelberg.army.mil/newspaperweb on the Web.

Fort Riley offers 'Helping Hand'

Holiday fund drive puts food on table of 278 military families in need

By Mike Heronemus

Editor

Post chapel congregations led a recent outpouring of charitable contributions that will ensure needy Fort Riley families will have food to eat during the holiday season.

Post units and several local banks and businesses also contributed to Operation Helping Hand Nov. 15 through Dec. 6. The annual fund-raising effort provides military families with limited finances enough money to buy food at the Fort Riley Commissary for a traditional holiday meal.

The Operation Helping Hand committee decided Dec. 6 who would get money from the \$17,500 contributed. This year the amount is a little more than what was contributed to the previous year's fund drive, said Chap. (Maj.) Carl Rosenberg, project officer.

About \$1,000 of that money came from post units, another \$4,000 to \$6,000 came from three local banks and the rest was collected during Sunday worship services on post, Rosenberg said.

After meeting Dec. 6, the Operation Helping Hand commit-

tee selected 278 Fort Riley families to receive assistance ranging from \$40 to \$95. The amount each family receives depends upon the Soldier's rank and the number of dependents he or she has, Rosenberg said.

See Help, Page 4

Army's elite



Post/Blackmon

(From left) Patricia Dewitt and her husband, Staff Sgt. Sean Dewitt, Staff Sgt. Michael McInroy and Staff Sgt. Daniel Rosenberry and his wife, Chevon Rosenberry, accept congratulations following the Soldiers' inductions into the Fort Riley Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Dec. 1. Spouses received the military family medallion of appreciation.

Sgt. Audie Murphy Club inducts eight members

By April Blackmon

Staff writer

Eight Fort Riley Soldiers joined the elite members of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Dec. 1 during a ceremony at Barlow Theater.

"This is something I've been looking forward to ever since I was a private. I met a lot of influential people in my career, many NCOs who were Audie Murphy members," said inductee Staff Sgt. Kevin Thomas. "I feel like this is a huge step in the right direction; it lets me know I'm still doing the right thing."

The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club recognizes noncommissioned officers who exhibit leadership traits and professional-

ism above and beyond their peers. Induction and membership in SAMC is a reward for NCOs whose leadership achievements and performance merit special recognition.

"I'm extremely elated that he was inducted. I'm real proud of him," said Chevon Rosenberry about her husband, Staff Sgt. Daniel Rosenberry. "He first told me when he was in Iraq that he made it. So I went to Clothing and Sales and got the book for him and sent it to him in Iraq to make sure he was studying."

Eligible Soldiers include those in the ranks of corporal through sergeant first class. This month's inductees included an honorary inductee, 1st Sgt. Lewis Gordon

See Audie Murphy Club, Page 2

New members

1st Sgt. Mark Gendron, Co. C, 1st Eng. Bn. (Gendron was a sergeant first class when recommended for induction.)

Staff Sgt. Michael Bradley, HHC, 1st Bn., 5th FA

Staff Sgt. Sean Dewitt, Co. B, 101st FSB

Staff Sgt. Michael McInroy, HHC, 1st Bn., 16th Inf.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Rosenberry, Co. B, 101st FSB

Staff Sgt. Kevin Thomas, Co. B, 101st FSB

Staff Sgt. Darlene Washington, USA MEDDAC

Honorary inductee:

1st Sgt. Lewis Gordon Jr., HHC, 1st Eng. Bn.

Spc. Camron Emmanuel of the 82nd Med. Co. (AA), receives an award and certificate of appreciation from Joe Squarzone, General Electric 1700 military field representative, while 1st Sgt. Michael Mears looks on.

82nd Med. Co./Orr



Soldier solves leak, earns award

By Aaron J. Orr

82nd Med. Co. (AA)

Spc. Camron Emmanuel, an aircraft power plant mechanic with the 82nd Medical Company (AA), received the General Electric T700 Maintenance Excellence Award Dec. 6 from a GE company representative.

The T700 is the engine used in the Black Hawk helicopters the 82nd Med. Co. pilots fly.

The award is a recognition for his extra efforts, said Joe Squarzone, the T700 military field representative, who presented the award.

"There were some engine

See Award, Page 4

"It can engage while on the move, but it's not as accurate," Tordillos said.

The system runs off alternating current power, lithium batteries or Singars rechargeable batteries. The control box weighs about 30 pounds, with two joysticks that control the robot platform and the weapon and a daylight viewable screen.

SWORDS recently was named one of the most amazing inventions of 2004 by Time Magazine.

Four SWORDS exist; 18 have been requested for service in Iraq, Tordillos said. So far, each system has cost about \$230,000 to pro-

See Robots, Page 4





1st BCT leaders prep for 'Green Tab' run

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Sixty years after the German Army launched the attack that started the Battle of the Bulge, leaders of the "Devil Brigade" plan to attack the pavement at Custer Hill for a 1st Brigade Combat Team "Green Tab" run.

The purpose of the Dec. 16 early morning jaunt is to build esprit and morale among the division's officers, said Col. Bart Howard, new commander of 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

The "Green Tab" run will include officers down to company level, he said. "We'll have 40 to 50 people. We'll go four or five miles around Custer Hill," Howard said.

Thinking about having the run, Howard mentioned that the recent snow and cold temperatures had reminded him of the extreme winter conditions Big Red One Soldiers faced during the Battle of the Bulge.

Howard said he sees this run as a way for the brigade's current Soldiers to remember the Big Red One's legacy of never accepting defeat, Howard said.

The 1st Bde. is the oldest brigade in the Army, Howard pointed out. It's history stretches to the battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War. The brigade took its nickname from that battle, where it fought in the "Devil's Den."

Some of the brigade's subordinate units also claim a heretage of being the oldest units of their type in the Army, including 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, known as "Hamilton's Own," 1st Engineer Battalion and 101st Forward Support Battalion, he said.

"It's important for the Devil Brigade's Soldiers to know they are part of a long line of veterans who have gone before them," Howard said. "Hopefully, our new veterans (today's brigade Soldiers) will tell their stories to the next generation," he said.

Audie Murphy Club

continued from page 1

Jr. of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Engineer Battalion. Honorary inductees are personnel who fit the image of a member but would not normally be allowed to compete. Gordon is an E-8 and therefore out of the rank range for normal consideration.

Honorary members are chosen based on their performance records. They do not appear before a selection board but enjoy all the privileges and distinction afforded regular members.

NCOs nominated to become members must be first-line supervisors over at least two Soldiers and demonstrate personal concern for the needs, training, development and welfare of their Soldiers. The NCOs must maintain a leader's notebook on all Soldiers assigned to them and have not received an Article 15 as an NCO.

The NCOs must be selected to attend local leadership boards based on their leadership skills. After they have passed those boards, they attend battalion and brigade boards to qualify for induction.

Being a member of the elite Sergeant Audie Murphy Club means "Soldiers look up to you more because they know that you had to go over tremendous bound-



Post/Blackmon

MEDDAC Staff Sgt. Darlene Washington receives the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club medallion from Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy (left), commanding general of the 24th Inf. Div. (Meeh) and Fort Riley, and 24th Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. Gilbert Canuela Dec. 1.

aries to get where this is at," Rosenberry said. "For you to accomplish this, that just shows the Soldiers that there's nothing you won't do to accomplish your goals."

"It's an honor, a privilege and an opportunity to excel. It's nice to be part of an elite and knowing that your chain of command feels that you're their top choice," said inductee Staff Sgt. Sean Dewitt.

The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club began at Fort Hood, Texas, early in 1986.

Audie Murphy is considered the greatest combat Soldier in the history of the U.S. Army.

Murphy enlisted in the Army at age 18 and spent some 400 days in the front lines, earning a battle-field commission.

Murphy earned every American medal for valor.

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Post news in brief

Offices to close for holiday

The ACA/Directorate of Contracting will be closed Dec. 10 beginning at 11:30 a.m. for a holiday function. Normal hours of operation will resume on Dec. 13.

In case of an emergency, call 239-1099. The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate and the Public Affairs Office at Fort Riley will close the afternoon of Dec. 17 for annual Christmas parties.

Public Works sets pick-up

The trash pick-up schedule will change Dec. 20-24 in observance of Christmas. The schedule is:

Dec. 20 – Colyer Manor, Main Post, Marshall Field, dumpster at Building 621. (No change from regular schedule.)

Dec. 21 – Ellis Heights, O'Donnell Heights, Monteth Heights and Peterson Heights (north of Thomas Avenue), dumpsters at Building 5309. (No change from regular schedule.)

Dec. 22 – Warner Heights, Burnside Heights, dumpsters at Buildings 28, 45, 470, 540, 542 and 621.

Dec. 23 – Meade Heights, McClellan Heights, South Warner Heights, Peterson Heights (south of Thomas Avenue), dumpsters at Building 5309.

Dec. 24 – No pick up. For more information, call Paul Cassella at Contract Inspection Branch, Directorate of Public Works, 239-6274.

Retired NCOS to host ball

The Retired Sergeant Majors and Chief Association will host a formal holiday ball and dinner beginning at 6 p.m. Dec. 18 at Riley's Conference Center.

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, will be the guest speaker.

Cost is \$15 per person. For more information, call Rick Heaton at (785) 537-7256 or Martin Almdenzar at (785) 761-2362.

College accepts enrollment

Central Michigan University is accepting enrollment for a course in "Environments in Administration" through Dec. 20. Classes will meet Jan. 7, 8, 21 and 22 and Feb. 4 and 5.

To register online, go to ddlcampus.cmich.edu. For more information, call 784-4402.

Hospital offers flu vaccine

Irwin Army Community Hospital recently received an additional, limited amount of flu vaccine which will be given to patients on an appointment basis.

Patients in one of the following categories, may receive a flu vaccine by scheduling an appointment:

- Children ages 6-23 months
 - Adults ages 65 or older
 - Patients ages 2-64 years who have chronic medical conditions placing them at risk for infection (such as asthma, diabetes, chronic lung disease, and other specific conditions)
 - Pregnant women
 - Nursing home or long-term care facility residents
 - Children ages 6 months to 18 years old who require chronic aspirin therapy
 - People who have close contacts with children less than 6 months old
- Appointment times and dates are 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 6-7 at Primary Care Clinic No. 3.
- Call 239-DOCS (3627) for an appointment.

Council elects officers

Retired general retakes helm of retiree group

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Fort Riley's Retiree Advisory Council Dec. 4 elected retired Brig. Gen. Dayle Williamson of Nebraska as its chairman effective in January 2005. Williamson held that position for a two-year term that ended in January 2003.

The council also elected retired Command Sgt. Maj. Leland Robinson of Junction City as vice chairman and retired Lt. Col. Diana Chapel of Manhattan as secretary. Each will serve a two-year term on the council in those capacities. Robinson advances to the chairman's post in January 2007 under normal circumstances.

The Fort Riley Retiree Advisory Council meets every two months to discuss issues of concern to military retirees, veterans and their spouses and widows. Issues are presented to the Fort Riley commanding general and to the Army chief of staff's retiree council should that be warranted.

In 2004, the Fort Riley council worked with state legislators and the state's association of registers of deeds to limit access to information on DD Forms 214.

Many veterans have filed those documents detailing their military service and containing personal information with county offices as permanent records. Council members felt information contained in those documents could be used by someone considering identity theft to obtain federal benefits.

Legislation passed in 2004 restricts who may access that information.

The retiree council is made up of 13 retired officers and 13 retired military members of any military service and one military widow. Its members work with the Fort Riley retirement services office to keep abreast of issues and legislation affecting retirees and their families and to host the annual Retiree Appreciation Day for Fort Riley.

The 2004 Retiree Appreciation Day was held at the Holidome in Manhattan Sept. 10 and was attended by 265 people. It featured a guest speaker from the Army chief of staff's retiree council, a health fair conducted by staff at Irwin Army Community Hospital and a county fair with information booths set up by varied veteran and community organizations in the area.

Next year's Retiree Appreciation Day is scheduled for Oct. 14 at Riley's Convention Center on post.



19th PAD/Tamez
Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, qualified on the MK19 under the observation of Soldiers from Troop D, 4th Cavalry, 1st Brigade, Dec. 3.

Artillerymen aim to gain grenade gun proficiency

By James Tamez
19th PAD

"Training in the cold isn't much fun, but shooting live rounds is always great. This is what you come into the Army for," said Spc. Jonathan Simpson of Battery D, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery.

But fun wasn't why Simpson and other Soldiers in the battalion were on Range 29 at Fort Riley Dec. 3. They were making sure they could effectively fire the MK 19 Model 3 40mm grenade machine gun.

One of two crew-served weapons the artillerymen use during convoys, the grenade machine gun shoots rounds farther and faster than the M203 grenade launcher.

The other crew-served weapon battalion Soldiers use is the M2 50-caliber machine gun. Both weapons can be used for offensive or defensive fire against enemy targets.

Weapons qualification is routine training for Soldiers, but the Dec. 3 time on the range was particularly important to 1st Bn. Soldiers, said Capt. Kevin Toner, commander of Troop D, 4th Cavalry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. Toner supervised the qualifications that are part of the brigade's regeneration training effort to maintain a high level of combat readiness.

Soldiers of 1st Bn., 5th FA, recently returned from deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "As we learned in Iraq,

every Soldier is a warrior and every Soldier has to fight," Toner said.

"We have learned just how important it is for everyone to be proficient firing the weapon systems that they are assigned. This form of training is critical to ensure that we can kill the enemy and protect our forces," Toner said.

Simpson, one of the Soldiers who qualified on the MK19, agreed with Toner and said the grenade machine gun is a critical weapon in the battalion's arsenal. "It is pretty essential for suppression fire and helping out the unit."

Staff Sgt. Val Graffia of Troop D served as range safety officer during the qualifications. He outlined requirements Soldiers must meet to qualify with the grenade machine gun.

"Each Soldier will receive 30

rounds for familiarization fire. They will fire at the targets set up at 400, 600, 800 and 1,100 meters," Graffia said. "Once they finish with those rounds, they will receive their 32-round qualification belt." Each Soldier shoots a total of 10 engagements and will qualify if he or she successfully hits targets in seven of the 10 engagements, he said.

Qualifying with the MK 19 isn't easy for various reasons, Graffia said. "The MK19 is a challenging weapon system. It has such a high angle of fire and high trajectory that Soldiers need to be on top of their game to get a first-round burst on target."

Simpson confirmed that difficulty. He said he found it rather easy to hit the first couple of targets, but as the distance to the targets increased, so did the difficulty in hitting them.

Cavalry 'troop' re-ups for Iraq

By Shauna McRoberts
Army News Service

FORT CARSON, Colo. — About 250 Soldiers re-enlisted to stay with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and deploy to Iraq in a mass re-enlistment ceremony at Fort Carson, Colo., Dec. 1.

A team of 3rd ACR career counselors and retention noncommissioned officers spent several months planning the massive re-enlistment ceremony. Sponsors donated flowers for spouses and a large flag. The 3rd Cavalry Museum provided historical items, and Fort Carson's Harmony in Motion sang the national anthem and the Army Song.

On the day of the ceremony, Fort Carson's Waller Physical Fitness Center was packed with Soldiers and family members. Brig. Gen. Joseph Orr, 7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson deputy commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Terrance McWilliams, 7th Inf. Div. and Fort Carson command sergeant major, also attended. Orr told the Soldiers he was proud of their decision to stay in the Army.

The regiment, which spent a year in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom's first rotation, is preparing to deploy again in coming months in support of OIF's third rotation.

Close to 500 Soldiers have re-enlisted over the past months to stay with 3rd ACR and deploy to Iraq, officials said.

Editor's note: Sgt. Shauna McRoberts serves with the Fort Carson Mountaineer newspaper staff.

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ANS/Jewel

With a weapons platform mounted to a Talon robot, the SWORDS system allows Soldiers to fire small arms weapons by remote control from as far as 1,000 meters away. The system, demonstrated at the biennial Army Science Conference, may soon join Soldiers in Iraq.

Robots continued from page 1

duce, said Bob Quinn, lead integrator for the project. When they go into production, Quinn estimates the cost per unit will drop to the range of \$150,000 to \$180,000.

"It's a classic boot-strap effort," Quinn said.

Tordillos fielded a variety of questions while showing off the system in the exhibit hall. Soldiers wanted to know what military occupational specialty they have to sign up for in order to work with the system. There is no specific MOS for it, he said.

Other questions were more thought provoking, such as,

Help

continued from page 1

One local business will add \$15 coupons redeemable at the commissary this holiday season to what Operation Helping Hand gives, but Soldiers have to go to the business to pick those up, Rosenberg said.

Unit first sergeants provided recommendations to the committee selecting names of Soldiers in their units who could use the money to feed their families this holiday season. "We have one E-6 with six dependents and one E-4 with nine dependents" among the names received, Rosenberg said. He expects about 220 Fort Riley families will receive money from Operation Helping Hand this year.

A lot of E-4s and their families who have to live off-post spend much of their money on rent and utilities, Rosenberg affirmed, so the extra holiday money for food can be put to good use.

Selected families will be given a check they can spend at the commissary, Rosenberg said. They can buy whatever they want except for tobacco products, alcohol and pet food, he said. The

They also must spend almost all of the money they receive. "They can receive no more than \$2 cash in change from the commissary cashier," Rosenberg said.

Part of the money collected this year - about \$2,000 - will be held by the post chaplains to be used in similar fashion throughout the rest of the year, Rosenberg said. If a first sergeant has a Soldier's family in need of some support to buy food, a one-time request can be made for help, he said.

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Leavenworth Lamp/Prudence Siebert

Cavalry troop rides in parade

Fort Riley's Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard participates in the Lawrence, Kan., holiday parade Dec. 4

Award continued from page 1

continued from page 1

One of the problems Emmanuel solved was an engine oil leak.

His isolation of the problem prevented mechanics from having to remove the engine from the aircraft.

Squarzone estimates Emmanuel saved the Army at least 100 man-hours by isolating the engine problem so it could be fixed without removing the engine.

More than 11,000 T700 engines are currently in the field

worldwide. About 100 T700
Maintenance Excellence Awards

"Gary [Welsh, the previous

T700 military field representative here] recognized the good work that [Emmanuel] was doing and he wanted to present the award," Squarzone said.

The T700 engine has been in production since 1978. It is found on 25 types of rotary and fixed-wing aircraft around the world, including several different types of helicopters used by the U.S.

0 military.

s "From '78 till now there really
s hasn't been many of [these
e awards] handed out," Squarzoni
explained.

Emmanuel, a native of the Caribbean island of Saint Lucia, said he was honored to be recognized.

"This is big," Emmanuel said. "This is the best I've received. I feel honored to be awarded this certificate. I've always had pride in what I do. I appreciate this certificate a great deal"

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Commentary

Friday, December 10, 2004

Fort Riley Post

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Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

If you were the post command sergeant major, what would you try to change, improve or keep the same at Fort Riley?



"We need to fix the new traffic circle on Custer Hill. There haven't been any accidents yet, but there have been some close calls. Maybe better signs telling which lanes to be in would help people know where they are going."

Spt. Ajita Curry
Administrative Specialist
HHC, 1st Brigade Combat Team
Home: Anderson, S.C.



"Make more roads off the hill so troops can get on and off easier. The roundabout works well as far as helping move traffic through that intersection."

Sgt. Matthew Daige
Team leader
Co. A, 1st Engineer Battalion
Home: East Hampton, N.Y.



"Eliminate the traffic circle. I think it's going to cause more accidents because people will get careless about yielding. I've only been here a year, but everything else seems fine."

Pfc. Douglas Lalicker
Decon platoon
HHC, 1st Engineer Battalion
Home: Goodland, Kan.



"I've only been here about a month. I would keep placing an emphasis on TSIRT (Theater Specific Individual Readiness Training) for Soldiers who are going to deploy."

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Shaffer
Brigade NBC NCO
HHC, 1st Brigade Combat Team
Home: Fairmont, W. Va.



"Improve (speed up) access control. Maybe we need more gates. I don't really know what needs to be looked at. Maybe they could stagger PT times to alleviate the rush."

Staff Sgt. John Warnock
Squad leader
Co. A, 1st Engineer Battalion
Home: Aberdeen, N.C.

Next week's question:

In addition to the religious aspects, what's the most important thing for Soldiers and families to remember during the holiday season?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.

Editor's note: The following remarks were made by the new secretary of the Army, Dr. Francis J. Harvey, during a welcoming ceremony Dec. 6 at Fort Myer, Va.

I am truly honored to be appointed the 19th secretary of the Army and have the opportunity to serve our country, our great country, during a time of war.

I am looking forward to working closely with the chief as we lead the Army in successfully meeting the challenges of the dangerous and complicated 21st-century security environment and, specifically, jointly fighting and winning the Global War on Terrorism.

Although these challenges are daunting, I know the Army will meet them. I say this because the Army isn't just an ordinary institution, it's a great institution with an unparalleled set of enduring core values, a long, rich tradition and a demonstrated ability to change and adapt to new situations.

Values like loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage; and the Soldier's Creed, which states: I will always place the mission first, I will never accept defeat, I will never quit and I will never leave a fallen comrade.

To me, there is no institution in our country that has a richer tradition than the Army. A tradition that is older than the Republic itself. The tradition of the long gray line. The tradition of bravery as manifested at Omaha and Utah beaches and the Battle of the Bulge. The tradition of courage as demonstrated at Okinawa and Guadalcanal, and most recently, at Fallujah. The tradi-



Secretary Harvey

tion that has preserved the peace and freedom of our country for over 229 years.

This great institution, in concert with the Navy, Air Force and Marines, has been the vanguard of

democracy around the world — countries such as Japan, Germany, France, South Korea, Afghanistan and Iraq are free today because of the U.S. Armed Forces and the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform.

I recently had the opportunity to visit wounded Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

As the chief has experience that was for me — to see the resilience of these young men and women, and that of their spouses; to feel their commitment to something much greater than self.

The Nation and free peoples around the world will sleep better tonight because of the willingness of our Soldiers and their loved ones to endure hardships so that others might have a brighter future — a future of freedom, democracy, equality and opportunity.

Values, tradition, and people — that is the essence of the U.S. Army.

So I am confident that the Army will succeed in meeting the challenges of the 21st-century security environment. As the chief has stated on many occasions this security environment, which is characterized by asymmetric adversaries, transnational

terrorists, non-linear battlefields and intense post-conflict operations, is perhaps, more complex than at any other time in our nation's history.

In order to ensure our country's national security in this complex environment, it is essential that the Army continue to successfully carry out its mission of providing trained and ready forces with the necessary capabilities to the combatant commanders in support of the national security and defense strategies both today and in the future. These forces must be fully capable across the entire range of military operations.

In the near term that means we must meet our fundamental responsibilities of recruiting, organizing, training, equipping, sustaining and developing Soldiers and leaders.

As the chief has frequently said, Soldiers are the centerpiece of our formations. I could not agree more. As the secretary of the Army, my top priority will be the well being of Soldiers and their families. There is no more important aspect of our effort to win the Global War on Terrorism than taking care of our people.

As we carry out these responsibilities in the near term, we must also develop a future force that is better able to meet the challenges of our security environment by implementing a key element of defense strategy, and that is transforming the way the Army fights and the way it does business.

Transformation is a multidimensional and interdependent process that involves adapting new technologies to warfighting and business operations; developing improved joint operating concepts and business processes to

utilize these technologies; changing organizational structures and, most importantly, developing leaders, people, and a culture that are relevant to the future.

The intent is to establish an overall capability that is totally aligned with our security environment.

But most importantly, to truly be successful, transformation must build on those enduring values and rich traditions of the Army. We will keep the best of the past, while transforming to be better able to meet the challenges of the future.

The technology that is at the center of transformation is information technology. The long-term goal of the information age transformation of the Department of Defense is an organization that is capable of conducting network-centric operations, both militarily and business, in a totally joint fashion, to include our allies and partners.

From the military point of view, a network-centric capable force is one that is robustly networked (including command and control, warfighters, platforms and sensors), fully interoperable and shares information and collaborates by means of a communications and information infrastructure that is global, secure, real time, reliable, internet-based and user-driven.

In closing, let me state that whether we are talking about the current force or the future force, my number one priority that will be overarching and enduring is the well-being of Soldiers and their families. I want them to know that I greatly value the service and the sacrifices that they are making for our country.

Crime concern

Shoplifting not worth five-finger discount

By Diane Weed
AAFES Public Affairs

Shoplifting is a crime that could cost a military member his or her career and a whole lot of money, too.

"Whatever excuses people come up with to justify their actions, the fact remains that none of them are good enough reasons to risk a career over," said Steve Bass, loss prevention manager at Headquarters, Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

Military exchanges spend millions of dollars each year to foil shoplifters, including measures to deter and detect thefts, Bass said. As a result, AAFES apprehends more than 10,000 shoplifters each year. Shoplifters are turned over to base security and their units for criminal and Uniform Code of Military Justice action.

AAFES and other federal retailers also are authorized to

collect a \$200 administrative fee on top of the value of the shoplifted merchandise. This fee offsets the expenses AAFES incurs due to shoplifting.

The Civil Recovery Act, which went into effect March 1, 2002, allows AAFES to collect the flat administrative cost in addition to the value of the shoplifted items from those caught shoplifting in an AAFES store.

Sponsors also are financially responsible for their family members' actions under the terms of the AAFES program. Parents of minors caught shoplifting will be billed for the costs. These administrative charges are separate from any criminal prosecution or military disciplinary action.

Shoplifters reduce store profits and thereby reduce the amount of money AAFES puts back into Morale, Welfare and Recreation coffers at each post and base.



Diane Weed

Grunt

By Wayne Udden

THA ARMY TAKES EXTRA MEASURES TA PERFECT THA WEAKEST PART OF THA BODY, WHICH ACCOUNTS FER KEVLAR HELMETS...



FORT RILEY POST

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Military wins popular vote in kids' election

By Gerrold Johnson
AFPS

DOWNERS GROVE, Ill. — Children from across the country held a special nationwide election and chose the military as most deserving of a caring gesture.

To the victors in the Great Community Cookie Election of 2004 go the spoils: 2,004 chocolate chip cookies.

Representatives of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps were given 100 inaugural cookies to take back to their local units. The rest of the cookies will be mailed to troops in Iraq.

Among the candidates for the high office of "most deserving of a caring gesture" were doctors and nurses, firefighters and police officers and homeless-shelter workers.

According to Kids Voting USA officials, the military was in a virtual tie with homeless-shelter workers in many of the 100 participating U.S. cities.

However, once the national numbers came in, the military eked out a victory with 37 percent of the popular vote.

"America's kids have spoken,"

said Dave Horton, senior vice president for brand management for Doubletree Hotels. "Americans need to remember how important voting is, and we hope to help instill that important message at a young age."

Thousands of students ages 6 to 11 years old cast their votes through a specially designed online voting system. Students from two third-grade classes at Butterfield Elementary School in Downers Grove, Ill., saw firsthand how their votes made a difference as they gave renowned Doubletree cookies to local representatives from each of the military services.

These Illinois students are being joined by thousands of kids across the country and more than 125 Doubletree Hotels, the corporate sponsor of the "Teaching Kids to Care" initiative, to ultimately provide the military with 250,000 chocolate chip cookies.

After a brief ceremony, the children were allowed to ask questions of the military representatives.

One question raised a few eyebrows on the military panel. "What's a missing-man formation?" asked one student.



AFPS/Johnson

(From left) Army Staff Sgt. Eddy Nubine and Air Force Tech. Sgt. Isaac Guerrero receive 100 cookies from Rachelle Cruz, a Butterfield Elementary third-grader. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Mike Stubblefield and Marine Sgt. Bradley Luke also accepted cookies. Helping with the presentation is third-grader Trevor Reeg (far right) and Cynthia Brock, director of sales and marketing for Doubletree Hotels.

"Wow, good question," was the initial response from Tech. Sgt. Isaac Guerrero, an Air Force recruiter and Operation Enduring Freedom veteran.

He went on to use the aerial

salute during the late President Ronald Reagan's funeral in June as an example.

"When the jets are flying together in a row," he said using both his hands to demonstrate,

"and one of them peels off up into the sky, that symbolizes the person who has died going up to heaven."

There was an audible "ooh" from the captivated third-graders.

Other questions were more expected. "What's war like?" another student innocently asked.

"It's like life — an everyday struggle," said Sgt. Bradley Luke, a Marine Corps recruiter and Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran. "The most important thing is to make sure that your family and friends are okay."

Kids Voting USA is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to teaching young people about the importance of voting and that each vote is a voice.

According to a press release,

KVUSA exists to teach young people that voting is part of the American democratic system and social responsibility.

As part of the KVUSA program, students take part in an authentic voting experience that mirrors the official voting process.

According to KVUSA research, there are 14 percent more registered 18-year-old voters in communities with KVUSA

programs.

"Teaching Kids to Care" is an educational outreach initiative in its third year of existence.

It was started by Doubletree Hotels to encourage kids to start making conscious decisions about how they can personally show they care about their communities.

The program has been reinforced by a survey that showed that 60 percent of parents across America feel the subject of community service should be emphasized as much or more than traditional subjects in their children's schools.

As for the cookies, in recent years Doubletree Hotels began providing their customers with chocolate chip cookies.

The warm cookies are symbolic of the warm feeling of home and are a way to say thank you, company officials said.

In the days ahead, servicemembers deployed to Iraq will also get a thank you that tastes a lot like home.

Editor's note: Army Master Sgt. Gerrold Johnson is assigned to U.S. Army Public Affairs - Midwest.

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Army updates sex policy

New guidance re-emphasizes commitment against assaults

By Shaun Herron
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — New Army guidance on sexual assault prevention and response was released Nov. 12 and will be included in the upcoming revision of AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, in 2005.

The new guidance is one of several steps the Army recently took to re-emphasize that any offense of sexual assault is inconsistent with Army values and warrior ethos, officials said.

In addition to the new policy guidance for commanders, the Army has launched a Web site at www.sexualassault.army.mil, to

promote steps leaders and Soldiers at all levels can take to prevent and respond to instances of potential sexual assault.

Included in this Web site are links to training materials developed by Training and Doctrine Command.

Sexual assault prevention training will be part of initial entry training, semi-annual training, installation in-processing and pre-deployment training for all Soldiers.

The Web site includes links to additional resources for victims of sexual assault and a checklist for commanders to help the recovery of sexual assault victims.

The newly launched sexual assault Web site and incorporation

of the new Army guidance into AR 600-20 reinforces Army leadership's ongoing commitment to ensuring that adequate prevention programs and policies are in place, said Col. Paris Mack, chief, Human Factors Division, Human Resources and Policy Directorate, GI.

It will also ensure that Soldiers who are victims of sexual assault receive proper treatment, medical and psychological care; that the chain of command will provide full support, dignity and confidentiality to victims; and that any reported incidents of sexual assault will be "fully investigated and acted upon through the military criminal justice system," Mack said.

These efforts are the first steps at incorporating the recommendations of an Army task force that conducted a 90-day detailed review of the Army's policies and programs on sexual assault.

That task force issued an 80-page report with 24 recommendations to improve the system.

When looking for ways to improve the Army's policies and programs, the task force sought advice from outside agencies, including the Department of Veteran Affairs; National Organization of Victim Assistance; Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network; The Miles Foundation; Navy; Coast Guard; the University of Arizona and Purdue University in Indiana.

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Call the editor at 239-5584.

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Post Copy Photo

Polar Bears Underwater

This photo by Melonie B. Bariola was taken at the San Diego Zoo. It won first place in the Division 2 Color Prints/Place category in the Fort Riley Photo Contest for beginner, amateur and experienced photographers.

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USMC/Tooris
Marines with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, prep the "Dragoneye" at the edge of the city of Fallujah in the first hours of Operation Phantom Fury.

Unmanned aircraft gain starring role

Military uses remote combatant capabilities in War on Terrorism

By Donna Miles
AFPS

WASHINGTON — Unmanned aerial vehicles are earning star status in the global war on terror, becoming the most-requested capability by combatant commanders in Southwest Asia and increasing fourfold in that theater during the last year alone, according to the deputy director of the Pentagon's UAV planning task force.

Dyke Weatherington told a staff writer with the American Forces Press Service that UAVs are topping combatant commanders' wish lists. During the past year UAVs' numbers in Iraq have jumped from less than 100 to more than 400.

"We've seen a huge growth in the total numbers of UAVs in the theater, with most of that growth in the area of small UAVs," he said. "There's a lot of capability over there today, and frankly, the warfighter is asking for more."

'Sky eyes' make UAVs valuable

What makes UAVs so valuable, Weatherington said, is their ability to provide eyes in the sky for extended periods of time, beaming real-time images to the ground.

"In the Global War on Terror, persistence is vitally important," he said. "It's important to deny the enemy sanctuary, and constant surveillance in his backyard, so to

speak, prevents him the opportunity to mass assets and forces." In the event the enemy does this, UAVs offer an additional capability beyond their traditional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance role, Weatherington said. Now they're demonstrating a strike capability as well.

The Air Force's Predator UAV, which earned its stripes flying reconnaissance missions in Bosnia, showcased that capability in Southwest Asia. Predator is credited with taking out one of al Qaeda's top lieutenants in Afghanistan with a Hellfire missile and has since been used widely for offensive operations in Iraq.

Although Predator wasn't initially designed as a strike platform, Weatherington said its ability to provide continual surveillance and respond quickly to on-the-ground threats makes it a valuable asset in the war on terror.

"A UAV with a strike capability can take action very early in that cycle (of enemy activity)," Weatherington said, "and in many cases, eliminate the threat entirely."

Even unarmed, Predator and other UAVs can identify targets so other strike platforms, such as AC-130 Spectre gunships, can engage them more quickly and effectively, Weatherington said.

But Predator isn't the only UAV proving its value in Southwest Asia. Weatherington said the variety of UAV systems in the military inventory ensures that UAV technology is adaptable to

See Aircraft, Page 10

By Steven Field
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The concept of modularity is approaching its first true test as units across the country undergo transformation and prepare for deployments overseas.

With four modular brigades set under the 3rd Inf. Div. training and several companies reorganizing and reflagging under the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the time is rapidly approaching when the Army will send a Unit of Execution and subordinate Brigade Combat Teams (Units of Action) into combat, testing the modular, "plug-and-play" vision inspired by transformation.

A successful deployment would provide validation for the model that will be applied to each of the 10 Army divisions by 2007.

In these upcoming deployments, two BCT (UAs) from the 3rd Inf. Div. will fall under the command of the 42nd Infantry Division in north central Iraq when they deploy this winter. The rest of the division is slated to deploy with a unit from the Louisiana Army National Guard to Iraq shortly after.

In the ramp-up to these deployments, the newly reorganized BCT (UAs) have gone through rotations at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.

From the ground up

The story of the 4th BCT is one that epitomizes the transformation philosophy. The unit had about 21 soldiers when it was activated, and in six months gained about 1,500 Soldiers, garnered new

News Analysis

Modularity to face first true test



equipment and conducted three major training exercises. The Army took three different battalions from three different brigades with three different cultures and joined together as one team.

The 4th BCT (UA) had to be built from the ground up. And about eight months after its formation, it will join another BCT (UA) from the 3rd Infantry and a brigade from the Louisiana Army National Guard in one of the first modular deployments to Iraq.

"In six months, we did what a normal unit can expect to do in four to five years," said Maj. Alayne Conway, spokeswoman for the 3rd Inf. Div.'s 4th BCT (UA).

The changes mandated by transformation were especially felt among artillery Soldiers, whose battalions were integrated into all units and face new infantry-like requirements and missions as the Army changes.

Soldiers of the 4th BCT (UA) coined the term "infantry" during their rotation at JRTC to describe their new functions.

While they had traditional artillery responsibilities, they prepared to go into towns, do security sweeps and deal directly with the people in the country that they operate in, jobs typically reserved for other Soldiers like infantry and civil affairs.

Fort Campbell follows suit

Following in the footsteps of

the 3rd Inf. Div. is the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Ky., which officially kicked off its transformation effort on Sept. 16. By March 15, the division will have reorganized into four BCT (UAs), two aviation BCT (UAs) and a support UA.

There have already been major changes at Fort Campbell, especially with the transformation of the post's two aviation brigades — the 101st Aviation Brigade and the 159th Aviation Brigade, said Campbell spokeswoman Cathy Gramling. Currently, the 101st Avn. Bde. is strictly an attack helicopter brigade, while the 159th Avn. Bde. is purely an assault helicopter brigade.

Several of the aviation companies under the 101st and 159th have reflagged and moved around in creating a modular brigade structure, she said.

When transformation of the 101st Airborne Div. is complete in mid-March 2005, both aviation brigades will be made up of an attack battalion, an assault battalion, a cavalry squadron, a general support aviation battalion and an aviation support battalion.

Transformation beyond Stryker

The first deployment using the new modular brigade will begin only a few months after the return of the Army's first Stryker Brigade.

The 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry

Division, Stryker Brigade Combat Team, recently returned to Fort Lewis, Wash., after a yearlong deployment in Iraq.

While the performance of the vehicle silenced critics and won the praise of its operators and senior Army leaders, commanders of units with the SBCI were quick to point out the people were the factor that made the deployment of the brigade a success.

"The Stryker Brigade is not about the vehicle, it's about the Soldiers and the non-commissioned officers and officers," said Lt. Col. Buck James, commander of the 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment. "We are building the next generation of leaders and preparing for the future of the Army."

Modularity to grow Army

Adding a fourth brigade-sized element to each Army division is part of the larger plan to increase the number of Army brigades from 33 to 43 by the end of fiscal year 2007.

The 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, and the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y., will transform into modular brigades this fiscal year.

The modular restructuring of the Army will help combatant commanders rapidly identify units for deployment on short notice; allow units to sustain operations with minimal or no augmentation; enhance a unit's ability to deploy; and provide greater troop readiness, according to Army officials.

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Aircraft continued from page 8

the widest range of missions.

In all, the military now has more than a dozen UAV systems in its inventory and is at work on several new ones, including the Joint Unmanned Combat Aerial System that will incorporate direct-strike capabilities and a rotary-wing UAV.

On the more immediate horizon, there's the high-altitude, super-sophisticated Global Hawk being developed for the Air Force to conduct long-term surveillance. At the other end of the spectrum, the Marine Corps' hand-launched Dragon Eye system already in use in Iraq gives squad- or company-level leaders a snapshot of their operating area, and then breaks down into pieces that fit into a backpack.

Hand-held Raven most common

The Raven, another small, hand-held system in use by the Army, is the most common UAV in Iraq, Weatherington said, with about 250 systems providing real-time, up-to-date, over-the-horizon views over trouble spots. It packs into a transit case that fits into the back of a Humvee.

Another rising star is the Shadow tactical UAV, proving its value in Iraq during improvised-explosive-device sweeps and reconnaissance missions. Weatherington said six Shadow systems in

Southwest Asia "are flying almost continuously."

Weatherington, whose office coordinates all military UAV initiatives and programs, said there's no single, one-size-fits-all formula for UAVs. Different systems are more readily adaptable to different missions, providing capabilities from the squad or company level to the division or corps level, to the theater level.

"It's the integration of all those capabilities that make them advantageous," he said. "The integration of those systems is what provides very persistent surveillance capabilities."

In Iraq, UAVs provide situational awareness for troops guarding garrisons and high-value targets, support mobile troops during scouting missions and watch over convoy movements, among other missions, Weatherington said.

"They're a real advantage," he said. "If a convoy is going down the road and sees something up ahead that looks unusual, they can literally stop, put one of these things together and launch it, fly down the road and see what's down there — without endangering the convoy."

Weatherington said these small UAVs extend the capabilities of ground forces involved in protecting strategic locations. "You can have a detachment there for protection, but they can't always service the entire area," he said. "So

with one of these small UAVs, you can extend their eyes and ears to a much larger area and have a very rapid response if they detect a potential threat."

Meanwhile, UAVs provide high-altitude surveillance with "robust capabilities" at the theater level. Weatherington said as many as five Predator systems — all operated from within the United States — continually monitor the skies over Iraq and Afghanistan, sometimes simultaneously.

UAVs do what people can't, shouldn't do

Weatherington said UAVs can do what people can't, or ideally, shouldn't have to. They're able to operate at long ranges and don't tire or lose concentration as a human would over extended periods, particularly when operating in dangerous, high-stress environments.

They're less expensive to operate than manned platforms. For example, operating Predator costs "about a quarter of what it costs to operate an F-16 — and it stays up 10 times as long," Weatherington said.

But perhaps most importantly, they can conduct highly risky missions without risking human lives. "It affords combatant commanders flexibility in using an asset to conduct a mission that they may not choose to risk a

human, manned platform to do," Weatherington said.

In the long term, Weatherington said he expects to see UAVs and other unmanned systems replace more manned systems, particularly for high-risk or high-threat missions. "I think we'll continue to see that evolution," he said.

But despite their contributions, Weatherington was quick to point out that UAVs "aren't a panacea."

"They can't do everything for everybody, and we shouldn't try to make them do everything for everybody," he said. Air-to-air combat, for example, is probably best left to the highly skilled pilots trained to operate in what Weatherington called "a highly dynamic environment."

Similarly, tanker and airlift missions are probably most appropriate for manned aircraft, although Weatherington said the services are eyeing the possibility of "optional manning" for these aircraft.

In the meantime, Weatherington said UAVs have become "an extremely valuable asset, in terms of their endurance, their intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, their flexibility and their cost."

"They've proven their worth and continue to be a very effective tool for combatant commanders" fighting the global war on terror," he said.



Post Copy Photo

Something smells fishy!

Pfc. Samuel A. Sistare won first place with this color photo in the Division 1 Color/Place category of the Fort Riley Photo Contest.

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Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, December 10, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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Sports news in brief

FRMS Trooper wrestlers lose

The Fort Riley Middle School wrestlers lost to Chapman Middle School 81-28 Dec. 2. Four Trooper wrestlers won matches: Regis Bigness, Jason Chun, Trey Walker and Jordan Fuller.

The Troopers won five of 10 matches against Warrego Middle School, but no team scores were kept. Winning Troopers were Chun, Jonathan Spurlock, Jeremy Beale, Lance Harlow and Miles Corbin.

The Troopers also wrestled well against Rock Creek Middle School. They won six of 14 matches, but no team scores were kept. Bigness, Cody Merritt, Jeremy Herman, Chun, Spurlock and Harlow won matches against Rock Creek.

Celebrate new year by bowling

Authorized users can ring in the New Year at the Custer Hill Bowling Center from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. The evening will include bowling, music, food and fun. DJ Big Daddy will be mixing it up for bowlers' enjoyment. Each lane will get party favors and a bottle of champagne (for those parties of legal drinking age) to toast in the new year as the ball drops.

Breakfast will be provided. The kitchen will be serving S.O.S., scrambled eggs, hash browns, biscuits, coffee and orange juice. For those who make reservations, lanes of up to six people can party for \$75. For those who pay at the door, the cost of the evening is \$90.

For more information or to reserve a lane, call Custer Hill Bowling Center at 239-4366.

Sports staff plans tourney

The 2004 Fort Riley Post Wrestling Tournament will be Jan. 10-12 at King Field House. Competition starts at 6 p.m. nightly. A battalion may organize one men's team and one women's team, each consisting of 10 wrestlers.

For more information, call Barry Sunstrom at 239-3945.

Center offers shooting aid

The Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 9011 on Rifle Range Road, offers a Laser Shot Shooting Simulation System to help hunters improve their shooting. The system can be used for a rental fee of \$5 per person per hour or a group rate of \$15 per half hour or \$25 per hour.

Outdoor Rec is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, call 239-2363.

Lifeguard training set

Lifeguard training will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 27-30 at Eyster Pool. Participants must be at least 15 years old and able to pass a swimming test.

Fee for the training is \$65 and a lifeguard training book and CPR mask needed for the training can be bought at the Manhattan American Red Cross office.

For more information, call the Fort Riley Sports Office at 239-2148.

NASCAR team revs up for 2005

Army driver, crew see better results ahead

By Lorie Jewell
Army News Service

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — With a late season win and a spurt of top-10 finishes, NASCAR driver Joe Nemechek and his Army-sponsored team are looking ahead to an even better 2005 season.

Despite a 27th-place finish in the final 2004 season race Nov. 21 at Homestead, Nemechek and

others are pumped about the team's performance in the past couple of months. Nemechek finished the 36-race season in 19th place with an Oct. 10 first-place finish in Kansas, two poles, three top-five's and nine finishes among the top 10.

"Our goal for next year is to win more," Nemechek said. "We got a taste of it this season and we want more. We know we can do it."

This was Nemechek's first full season behind the wheel of the Army's black and gold 01 Chevrolet. Jerry Nadeau was in the driver's seat until a May 2003 crash during a practice run at Richmond International Raceway left him with a head injury. Several drivers filled in until Nemechek was brought in for the last four races of the 2003 season. Nadeau

See NASCAR, Page 12



Joe Nemechek waves to fans after being introduced as the driver of the Army-sponsored 01 Chevrolet in the final NASCAR season race, the Ford 400. Nemechek's mother, Martha (right), stands by in her specially-tailored uniform that pays tribute to her son and Soldiers.

ANSJewell

Big fourth

Troopers rally to beat Anthony

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

Fort Riley Middle School's eighth-grade A team outscored Manhattan's Susan B. Anthony 20-4 in the fourth quarter to seal its final win of the season Nov. 30. The Troopers defeated the Tornados 34-25.

After a tight first half, the Troopers were down 12-13 going into the third quarter. Unable to produce much in the third, they fell further behind, giving the Tornados a 21-14 lead at the end of the quarter.

Trailing by seven, a strong last-quarter team effort paid off. Trooper Marina Castillo led the fourth-quarter charge, scoring eight of her 11 game points. Barbara Commons scored her four game points in the fourth. Catherine Carmichael dropped in four of her 10 game points and Yolanda Reid put up four of her eight game points in the fourth quarter.

B team loses

FRMS' eighth-grade B team fell 11-41 against the Tornados.

The Tornados took a commanding 22-3 lead in the first half. The Trooper defense held the Tornados to just seven points in the third quarter, but the Tornados whirled back in the fourth with 12 points.

More photos

See page 14 for photos of other games.

Tornado player Audrey Keller scored 11 points, Sinclair Erdwien tallied 10 and Jisel Blasi added eight.

Whitley Strickland and Marina Rodriguez led the Trooper effort, scoring four each.

Instructional teams lose

The Trooper seventh- and eighth-grade instructional teams were defeated 47-2 and 52-3, respectively, by the Tornados.

Tornado player Cindy Okot-Kother led the team with 17 points in the first game. Whitney Madsen scored 16 in the second game.

Mandy Hollis scored the lone Trooper goal in the first game. Dana Haywood put in two and Symesha Stubbs dropped in one free throw for the Troopers in the second game.



Trooper Kaylynn Spriggs (left) and Tornado player Abby Stitt fight for the ball during Fort Riley Middle School's final game of the season Nov. 30.

Post/Blackmon



Fort Riley's B team member, Deanna Cabrey, heads for her team's basket while Tornado players Katie Graham (center) and Audrey Keller try to stop her Nov. 30.

Post/Blackmon

Display honors players' service

Baseball hall memorializes World War II

Special to the Post
Baseball Hall of Fame

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Only weeks after Pearl Harbor, baseball commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis placed the fate of the national pastime in the hands of President Franklin Roosevelt.

"What do you want [baseball] to do?" Landis asked FDR. "If you believe we ought to close down for the duration of the war, we are ready to do so immediately. If you feel we ought to continue, we would be delighted to do so. We await your order."

Within two days, Landis had his answer. President Roosevelt stayed baseball's demise and gave the game a valuable gift — the go-ahead to play ball.

In the "Green Light" letter, FDR told Landis that he personally considered baseball "thoroughly worthwhile." He further encouraged the commissioner to schedule more night baseball games, so day-shift workers could "see a game occasionally."

With "orders" from the president, baseball initiated an energetic campaign to support the war in every conceivable way. Patriotism joined the roster. Baseball had enlisted.

During World War II, hundreds of major league and Negro league players and thousands of minor league players enlisted in the military to support the cause. With many of baseball's top stars overseas, women's leagues and Negro leagues were called upon to lift morale on the home front.

The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League was formed in the Midwest and the Negro leagues witnessed a resurgence as crowds flocked to see greats such as Josh Gibson.

See Baseball, Page 13

Telltale lodges reveal woodrats' presence

Rodents adept at stripping automobile wiring, may move inside

By Alan Hynek
Fish and Wildlife Biologist



Alan Hynek

Although rarely seen, their presence is unmistakable. The telltale lodge announces the presence of a truly interesting animal.

The eastern woodrat (Neotoma floridana) is a large rodent that is mouse like in appearance. In general

it has little semblance of the old world rats like the Norway rat and black rat. Although usually associated with trees, they can be found in a variety of places including old barns, garages and other outbuildings.

Woodrats are almost exclusively

herbivorous, with a diet of twigs, buds leaves and roots. They do not drink water, since they are capable of obtaining enough moisture from their solid food.

As adults, they can grow to lengths of 14 to 17 inches head to tail.

Females can have one to two litters between February and September, with an average nest size of four. Their average lifespan is three years, which is fairly long for a rodent.

The eastern woodrat builds its nest mostly of dry twigs, leaves, bark, bones, dried grasses and really just

See Wildside, Page 13





NFL continues military support

Players visit deployed units, wounded servicemembers

By Gerry J. Gilmore
AFPS

WASHINGTON — The National Football League's support of America's armed forces during the war against global terrorism continues a tradition that's been maintained since World War II, the organization's chief executive noted Nov. 12.

America's military members are doing incredibly important things during the fight against terrorism, NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue pointed out. He cited servicemembers' demonstrated courage, commitment and sacrifice.

And it's important that the country — to include the NFL — back servicemembers' efforts, Tagliabue said.

"We need to support them," the commissioner said, adding, "We need to have the mindset that we have the responsibility to carry some of the burdens as well."

The NFL's support of the U.S. military goes back to World War II, Tagliabue observed, when many NFL players and coaches served in the military. That service continued, he said, during the Korean War.

In the 1960s, the NFL began to work with the United Service Organizations, he noted, and co-sponsored player visits to servicemembers serving in Vietnam and other locales. Today, he said, more than 200 NFL players have taken USO/NFL-sponsored tours

to visit with deployed and wounded servicemembers.

NFL players, organizational staff and other representatives continue to visit deployed U.S. troops in places like Kuwait and Iraq, including making visits to wounded servicemembers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, Tagliabue pointed out.

In May, the commissioner visited servicemembers in Germany. During that trip, Tagliabue said he and the players also "spent quite a bit of time" with the families of servicemembers, who are sacrificing, too.

Tagliabue said the NFL will provide \$250,000 to the USO in memory of former Arizona Cardinals football player and Army Ranger Cpl. Pat Tillman, who was

Tillman

See related story on page 14.

killed April 22, 2004, during combat operations in Afghanistan. The donation, the commissioner said, will be used to establish "The Pat Tillman USO Center" in Afghanistan.

Tillman had passed up a \$3.6 million contract with the Cardinals to enlist in the Army in 2002. His enlistment, Tagliabue recalled, "had a profound impact on everybody. It was the ultimate commitment; it was the ultimate sacrifice."

Joe Nemechek drives the Army-sponsored 01 Chevy to a 27th-place finish in the last NASCAR race of the season Nov. 21. Nemechek came in 19th overall for the 36-race season.
ANS/Jewell



NASCAR

continued from page 11

continues to recover.

Nemechek started the season on a promising note, finishing sixth in the Daytona 500. A series of mechanical glitches began plaguing the team, however.

Nemechek was holding third place in Michigan when the motor broke with 20 laps left, said crew chief Ryan Pemberton. The same thing happened in Texas, when he was running in the top five, and again at Talladega. Nemechek was up front in Pocono when the transmission went out.

Speed was never a factor, Pemberton noted.

"We had a shot at all of them," Pemberton said. "We're as competitive now as we were

then, we just started getting some breaks."

Pemberton looks forward to the breaks continuing into the next season, but said the team can't rely on momentum to push the 01 Chevy into top finishes.

"We have to continue to work hard," he said. "We have to keep doing what we're capable of doing."

Thanking heroes with victory

Steering the Army car into victory lane is a boost for the team, but Nemechek wants to park it there for other reasons.

With a desert camouflaged G.I. Joe doll riding shotgun, Soldiers enmeshed in the war on

terror are always on his mind as he flies around the track at speeds pushing 200 miles per hour. Ultimately, that's who he wants to win for, Nemechek said.

"They are the heroes in my life and in my family's lives," Nemechek said.

Army leaders are impressed with the team's efforts this season and look forward to even better results next year.

Linking Soldiers to sports

"We know we have the right team. Joe's a tremendous guy. We couldn't ask for more to represent the Army team," said Lt. Gen. Anthony Jones, deputy

commanding general and chief of staff of the Training and Doctrine Command.

Sponsoring a NASCAR team does more than give the Army high visibility in one of the most-watched sports in the country, Jones said. It gives Soldiers near and far a personal connection to the popular sport, he added.

"It gives Soldiers something to cheer for, especially those overseas," said Jones, noting the success of other Army-sponsored sports like the National Hot Rod Association, Pro Stock Bike Riding and the Professional Bull Riders Association.

"We have winning teams. That's what the Army is all about," he said.

SCREEN MACHINE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2X2SCREENM12/3DECTF03546155JT

Salina Power Sports
3 x 2.5"
Black Only

GEICO-AFC
3 x 10"
Black Only
#520623/Called Up/12-10-04

MANHATTAN TOWN CENTER
3 x 10"
Black Only
3X10 Man. Town Military



KSU falls to Liberty

Megan Mahoney: 'They just outworked us'

Staff report

No. 19 Kansas State University women fell to Liberty, 77-56, in the championship game of the Commerce Bank Wildcat Classic tournament Dec. 4 in Manhattan.

"They just outworked us. On the boards they were more aggressive. That's evident by how many times we got to the line compared to them. We just settled for outside shots, and when those weren't falling we needed to get more o-boards. They were just more aggressive tonight," said senior forward Megan Mahoney.

The Wildcats defeated New Hampshire, 84-50, in the first round of the tournament, where they lost key player Kendra Wecker to a foot injury. Wecker scored seven of K-State's first 14 points, but landed awkwardly on her left foot after a jump shot 4:21 into the game. The preseason All-American, averaging 24 points, left the coliseum on crutches.

Liberty took advantage of K-State without Wecker, snapping the team's 35-game regular-season home winning streak.

"I didn't feel we were lacking on ability because Kendra (Wecker) wasn't in the game. We just didn't bring the intensity, work, commitment to fundamentals," said K-State Head Coach Deb Patterson. "We were in a position, regardless of who was on the floor, where we needed to be a better basketball team."



Lady Wildcat Megan Mahoney (34) faces Liberty's Roli-Ann Nikagbatse Dec. 4 in the Wildcat Classic title game.

Kristal Tharp led Liberty with 26 points in the championship game of the Wildcat Classic. Katie Feenstra, the tournament MVP, had 22 points and eight rebounds. Rima Margeviciute added 16 for the Flames, who jumped out to a 10-2 lead in the first 4:51.

Mahoney led K-State with 18 points. Laurie Koehn added 17 for

the Wildcats, who were only 5-of-24 on 3-pointers and 3-of-10 from the free-throw line.

K-State will play three away games before returning home Jan. 2 to take on Central Connecticut State at 2 p.m.

The K-State men's basketball team's next home game tips off at 7 p.m. Dec. 18 against Texas-San Antonio.



Wildcat senior center Brie Madden shoots over the outstretched arms of Liberty defender Katie Feenstra during the Wildcats' 77-56 loss in Bramlage Coliseum.

Baseball

continued from page 11

Satchel Paige and "Cool Papa" Bell.

At every opportunity, organized baseball demonstrated support for the war, raising money and donating equipment. Numerous special games sold war bonds and earned large sums for war-related causes like the Army and Navy Relief Fund. Each baseball dollar that supported the war effort demonstrated baseball's

patriotism and helped ensure the game's survival during a time of serious shortages.

All the trappings of the game, from programs to uniforms, from stadium advertising to radio broadcasts, linked baseball to patriotism. Wartime baseball enthusiastically welcomed military bands, marching soldiers and the "Star Spangled Banner" to the game's more traditional rituals.

The museum recognizes the 64 Hall of Fame members who served in times of war with military seals adjacent to their Hall of Fame plaques and inclusion on a bronze military honor roll in the Hall of Fame Gallery. Two Hall of Fame members are recognized for serving America twice - Larry MacPhail (World War I and II) and Ted Williams (World War II and Korea).

Wildside

continued from page 11

about anything they can carry.

You can find a wide variety of items, from tin cans to shotgun shells to jewelry, in their nest. However, woodrats appear to have a preference for shiny objects.

They are sometimes referred to as the trader rat because they will lay down whatever they are carrying and pick up a more attractive object. They will occasionally leave a stone in place of whatever they take.

Within their lodge is a series of chambers lined with soft material, such as shredded bark, in which it rears its young.

Other chambers include areas for food storage, feeding and for depositing feces. Most lodges also include a series of underground tunnels used for escape and for cold weather habitation.

As a pest, the pack rat can cause major damage. They can be an important factor in transmission of disease and can become a major nuisance when they decide to take up residence in a building or vehicle.

Woodrats are particularly fond of electrical wiring. They can easily shred all of the wires under the hood of car in a short amount of time. If you have a vehicle that goes unused for weeks at a time, and you live near a wooded area, it would be wise to occasionally check under the hood for any new neighbors.

The preferred method for control in and around buildings is exclusion and trapping.

Taking preventative measures to keep all rodents out of buildings is the best course of action. However, if wood rats are already

present, they can be easily caught in live traps using dried fruit, apples, peanut butter or nut meats.

Woodrats are classified as huntable non-game animals, which means a hunting license is required.

In most states, including Kansas, they can be controlled without a hunting license when they threaten or damage property.

There is some lore tied to the pack rat, mostly in association with the weather.

The one I have heard most often is when pack rats build their nests up high, we will experience a lot of snow that winter.

I don't think there is much to this though as there seems to be quite a variety in heights in any given winter. Either that or they are not able to forecast the weather any better than us.

MILITARY OUTLET
3 x 3"
Black Only
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MARSHALL MOTORS
3 x 10"
Black Only
3X10 MARSHALL 12/10

FRONTIER SPIRITS
3 x 6"
Black Only
3X6 FRONTIER 12/10 POSTAD





Troopers wrap up regular season play

*Post/Blackmon*

Trooper Stephanie Socorro maneuvers past Tornado player Sierra Upton in the A team game.

*Post/Blackmon*

Tornado player Abby Stitt (right) tries to steal the ball from Trooper Marina Castillo.

*Post/Blackmon*

Fort Riley Middle School C team player Casey Elliot looks through waving arms of Anthony Middle School defenders for an open Trooper to pass to Nov. 30.

Army extends Tillman death probe

Army News Service

The Army is investigating additional details into the death of Cpl. Patrick D. Tillman, who died April 22, 2004, in Afghanistan.

Then Acting Secretary of the Army R. Les Brownlee reviewed the initial investigation of May 29, 2004, and found it did not address some questions that merited further investigation. The Tillman family also had questions that were not addressed by the first investigation.

On Nov. 3, 2004, Brownlee directed a new inquiry by U.S. Army Special Operations Command, the parent unit of Cpl. Tillman's unit, the 75th Ranger Regiment.

On Nov. 15, 2004, Brownlee informed the Tillman family that he had directed the U.S. Army Special Operations Command to begin the additional investigation, as well as a separate safety investigation by the U.S. Army Safety Center. When these investigations are completed, the Tillman family will be informed by the U.S. Army.

AT&T-AFC
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Black Only
#5189156519004/United We Stand

Sports news in brief

Winter golf classes offered

Custer Hill Golf Course will sponsor winter strengthening classes for golfers who are interested. For information, call 239-2544 and leave a message.

November hours for the course will be 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays and noon to 5:30 p.m. Mondays.

Aerobics classes offered

Aerobics classes are offered at King Field House from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays.

Aerobics classes cost \$2 per class if paid in advance.

For more information, call 239-2813.





Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, December 10, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Page 15

Community news briefly

Military invited to holiday meal

A community family Christmas dinner has been planned for families, friends and loved ones in Junction City and at Fort Riley. Several local organizations are sponsoring the free event, which is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. Dec. 19 at the Twelfth Street Community Center in Junction City. For more information, call Preola Briggs at 223-0500.

Church to honor servicemembers

The New Testament Christian Church plans to honor military members from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Dec. 12 at the church, 233 W. 13th St. in Junction City. For more information, call Naomi Conaway at 238-4202.

Rally Point sets activities

Dec. 12 - 7 p.m., WWE Pay-Per-View - Armageddon on TV.

Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 - 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., New Year's Eve Bash. Sip a toast to Auld Lang Syne with friends at Rally Point. Celebrate in style with champagne and party favors for only \$5 per person. Advanced table reservations are available for an additional \$10. You can also buy your tickets early at Rally Point. For more information or to reserve a table, call Rally Point at 784-5434.

PX invites all to decorate tree

The Fort Riley Post Exchange invites everyone on the installation to stop by the PX to place a note on its Patriot Tree. The special Holiday tree is a place where customers and associates can display messages and photos showing their support for deployed members of the military family.

"The Patriot Family Holiday Tree symbolizes our unified military family, the Patriot Family - the customers AAFES serves and the associates who proudly serve them," said Marilyn Iverson, AAFES chief operating officer.

Special tree cards will be available for customers to fill out with their special message or photo.

Storytime tells holiday stories

"Saturday Storytime" at the Post Library will celebrate the holiday season with stories and crafts for Christmas and Kwanzaa. Storytimes begin at 1:30 p.m. All children are welcome and there is no charge. Parents must accompany children under 10.

On Dec. 11, children will learn about the African-American holiday Kwanzaa and its traditions. Children can make a Kwanzaa Hug greeting card to give to their loved ones.

The Post Library, Building 5306 on Hood Drive, will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

For more information, call Victoria Martin at 239-9582.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Family reps discuss Army issues

Top five include eyeglasses, subsistence supplements, leave accrual

By Margaret McKenzie
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. - Delegates at the 21st Army Family Action Plan conference Nov. 15-19 evaluated 94 issues and prioritized 16 for adoption.

The top five AFAP conference issues were family member eyeglass coverage, expiration of TRICARE referral authorizations, childcare fee category, calculation of continental United States family subsistence supplemental allowance and leave accrual. The issues, which originated at installations throughout the world, addressed force support, mobilization and deployments, employment, entitlements and medical and dental, all elements that support better quality of life for Soldiers and their families.

"It's all about taking care of the Soldier whether he is in Afghanistan or Iraq," said Gen. Richard Cody, vice chief of staff of the Army. "It's important that he doesn't have to worry about what is happening at Fort Bragg or Fort Polk with his family. He knows his family is being taken care of back here."

The 120 delegates, broken

down into eight groups, spent the week narrowing the issues to the top five. After which, spokespersons shared the highest two with Cody, several senior Army leaders, spouses and officials from the Department of Defense.

See Families, Page 16

Holiday begins



Post/Blackmon

Santa Claus pays Fort Riley youth a visit during the post's tree lighting ceremony Dec. 2 on Ware Parade Field in front of the post headquarters.

Community greets season festively

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

With lights on the tree and Santa on the way, Fort Riley kicked off the holiday season with a tree lighting ceremony Dec. 2 at Ware Parade Field.

"This tree, this year, as much as in any year in the past, represents for us the symbol of unity, the coming together of the military, in the case of Fort Riley - our Soldiers, our families, the great civilians that work here," said Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding

general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley.

Purple Heart recipient, Spc. Byron Slay, a 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, medic, assisted Hardy in throwing the switch to light the tree and decorations. Slay represented Fort Riley's Soldiers who have been wounded in Iraq.

"We're also especially blessed today because we have a small representation of the hundreds of Soldiers who have been wounded in the current war fight," said Maj. Gen. Hardy, commanding

deployments, the fact that we've got people home, we realize that this is with a price, a significant price," Hardy said.

Following the tree lighting, the Morris Hill Chapel Gospel choir performed holiday music.

Santa rode in on the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard wagon and handed out candy to youth in attendance.

A new addition to the traditional holiday decorations in front of the post headquarters building - the tree, the manger scene and Santa's sleigh - is a

Menorah. The Menorah is a nine-branched candelabrum used on the Jewish holiday, Hanukkah, an eight-day celebration that began Dec. 7.

"As we think about Christmas, as we think about the holidays - because indeed this is about all religions, not necessarily just the Christian religion - it is the season of hope for us," Hardy said.



Post/Blackmon

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commander, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley and Spc. Byron Slay, a medic with the 1st Bn., 16th Inf., flip the switch to light the official Fort Riley holiday tree.



Post/Blackmon

Darrion Doffney slips hot chocolate as he and other children wait for Santa.



Post/Blackmon

Joy Saine (left) checks out Santa's lighted reindeer while Taryn Burks looks on.

CFC beats goal

Campaign raises total of \$171,708

By Dori Farrow

Chief, Admin & Operations
DMWR

The 2004 Combined Federal Campaign exceeded its 2004 goal of \$150,000. This year's campaign collected \$171,708.

The campaign ran from Sept. 13 to Nov. 19 after being extended for two weeks beyond the initial ending date to give Soldiers who had just returned with deployed units a chance to donate.

Campaign officials said the post wouldn't have been able to meet the campaign's goal without the efforts of some hard-working key personnel.

Dawn Barclay with the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center set up a CFC booth at the Fort Riley Open House this year. The booth offered giveaways, drawings and information about the CFC.

For two years in a row, DES combined its CFC campaign with its annual chili contest. It also sponsored a silent auction and live auction to raise money. Numerous employees donated auction items, including home cooked meals, house cleaning, car detailing and old coins.

Col. John Simpson, garrison commander, got into the mood of things and donated two sets of Kansas State University football game tickets. Anne Woodmansee, the CFC key worker for DES, put in a lot of hours and hard work to make it a success again this year.

DES made \$405 from this year's auction - \$205 more than last year.

Patsy Pence at Public Works provided a childlog luncheon for anyone who donated \$5.

With two weeks left in the campaign, Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Moore of the 1st Brigade Combat Team picked up 4,000 pledge forms and distributed them throughout 1st BCT to ensure his Soldiers were given the opportunity to contribute. That effort and other contributions in 1st BCT raised \$58,936 for the campaign.

Other organizations raised the following contributions: 3rd Brigade Combat Team, \$18,086; 937th Engineer Group, \$12,806; U.S. Army Garrison and the special staff, \$50,482; and tenant activities, \$31,397.

DoD updates family support programs

By Gerry J. Gilmore
AFPS

WASHINGTON - Defense Department military family support programs are being reshaped or modernized to become more

efficient and to reflect today's force, DoD's top family policy official said in November.

The military celebrated November as Military Family Month. It's an especially appropriate time to highlight how DoD supports military families, John

Molino, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy, said during a Nov. 18 Pentagon interview.

The department, he noted, has been evaluating its family support programs, many of which were designed in World War II days

when far fewer troops were married.

As a result, DoD is "modernizing those programs that are still good," Molino explained, "and bringing new programs, leveraging technology where we can, to make our programs more effective

and more efficient and better for servicemembers and their families."

For example, he said, there's Military OneSource, the free, 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week

See Programs, Page 16





Community news in brief

Team building classes offered

Two Army Family Team Building classes will be offered at the Armed Services YMCA, 111 E. 16th St. in Junction City, Dec. 17. Classes are titled "Intermediate Problem Solving," and "Time Management." Classes are taught from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and free childcare is available for those who pre-register.

For more information or to register for a class, call 239-1347 or 239-9435

Scholarships available

Applications for the 2005 Scholarships for Military Children program are available at all 273 commissaries worldwide or online at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

A link to the application is available on <http://www.commissaries.com>, the Web site for the Defense Commissary Agency.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of military retirees, active duty and Guard and Reserve servicemembers. Eligibility and additional information is available at the program Web site.

Applications for the \$1,500 scholarships are due at a commissary by close of business Feb. 16. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

Administered by Fisher House Foundation and funded by the manufacturers and industry, the program has awarded more than \$3 million for nearly 2,000 scholarships to the sons and daughters of military retirees, active duty and Guard and Reserve service members.

Commissary sets hours

Dec. 20 – Open normal hours
Dec. 24 – Open 7 a.m. to 4

p.m.

Dec. 25 – Closed for the holiday

Dec. 26 – Open normal hours
Jan. 1 – Closed for the holiday

Craft center slates classes

Dec. 11 and 12 – 2 to 4 p.m., introduction to black and white photography

Dec. 13 – 7 p.m., crochet, knitting, cross stitch

Dec. 13 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., ceramic painting (snowmen candle holder)

Dec. 14 – 6 to 9 p.m., introduction to matting and framing
For more information, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 239-9205.

Teen Center slates activities

Dec. 10 – 8 to 10:30 p.m., middle school dance

Dec. 11 – 9 to 11:30 p.m., high school dance
Dec. 17 – 7 to 10 p.m., pool party at Long Fitness Center pool (previously scheduled at Eyster Pool)

For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

Youth Services sets activities

Dec. 18 – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., free childcare for deployed Soldier's kids

For more information, call 239-9173

Auto center offers classes

The Auto Skills Center offers free basic and advanced automotive repair classes. The basic class is offered from 6 to 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of each month. The advanced class is offered from 6 to 7 p.m. every second and fourth Thursday.

For more information, call 239-9764.

Families

continued from page 15

This year's issues touched all areas from Soldier to civilian, retirees to family members.

Victor Arias from Fort Riley, Kan., Chris Pitcher from Schweinfurt, Germany, and Jeff Ashmen, from Fort Stewart, Ga., represented the voice of the youths at the conference.

The delegates also voted for the four most valuable services and the top six critical active AFAP issues, which were reported to the director of the Army staff at the closing session of the conference.

Two new categories were added: The top five mobilization/deployment and family sup-

port challenges and the top five mobilization/deployment family support strengths.

Four Most Valuable Services:

- Medical/Dental
- Army Community Service
- Commissary
- Army Family Action Plan.

Six Most Critical Currently Active AFAP Issues:

- Distribution of Montgomery GI Bill benefits to dependents (No. 497),
- In-state tuition (No. 521)
- Modification of weight allowance table (No. 457)

- Inferior shipment of household goods (No. 307)
- Army Community Service manpower authorization and funding (No. 491)
- Basic allowance for housing for activated reserve-component (No. 493) tied.

Top Five Mobilization/Deployment and Family Support Challenges:

- Soldiers not being paid on a timely basis
- Length of rotation/deployments
- Lack of positive media coverage from downrange
- Pay system for reservists

- Replacement of obsolete equipment, equipment shortages and upgrade of parts

Top Five Mobilization/Deployment and Family Support Strengths:

- Army Community Service
- Army Family Action Plan
- Army One Source
- Family Readiness Group Participation
- American Red Cross

Editor's note: Margaret McKenzie writes for the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.

Programs

continued from page 15

conduit where active duty and Guard and Reserve military family members can find information on parenting and childcare, tips on military life and relocation, work and education programs, and more.

Military OneSource can be accessed via the Internet. The program is also available by telephone from the United States at (800) 342-9647.

Molino noted that military families rank childcare as a top priority.

"Childcare is very important," Molino observed, noting that it is one of the issues that always comes up during meetings with military families and deployed military members.

"We are constantly working to try to keep childcare affordable" as the department strives to provide facility capacity to meet servicemembers' childcare needs, he said.

DoD has invested much money and emphasis in recent years to improve its military childcare programs, Molino said.

DoD's childcare system is the world's largest employer-supported childcare program, he noted, and is "recognized as a model for the nation" and the world.

Providing good childcare for servicemember families is an excellent investment, Molino pointed out, because it supports troop readiness and retention.

Employment issues also con-

cern spouses of military members, Molino noted.

Patterned after the successful "Troops to Teachers" program, the new "Spouses to Teachers" program is designed to assist military spouses in becoming public school teachers.

"Why not use these same great spouses, who reflect the profiles of our servicemembers, and encourage them to consider teaching as a career?" Molino said.

Consequently, he said, DoD has organized a pilot "Spouses to Teachers" program in six states with the highest concentrations of military members.

Another hot-button issue, Molino reported, involves communications between deployed servicemembers and their families.

During his visits with servicemembers assigned stateside and those deployed overseas, including troops serving in Iraq, Molino said, "the first issue that comes up is the ability to communicate with

the family."

DoD employs technology in maintaining communications between deployed servicemembers and their families, Molino noted, by providing Internet-linked e-mail and video facilities, low-cost telephone banks and use of private sector donated phone cards.

"We have tried to do what we can to make communications easier and more affordable" for deployed servicemembers and their families, Molino said.

For example, he noted, DoD has forwarded live video telecasts of high school graduations of servicemembers' children who lived in Europe to several areas in Iraq where military parents were deployed.

And, Molino said, videotapes or DVDs of those graduation ceremonies were also provided to servicemembers deployed to Iraq. Those programs, he said, were "very well received" and appreciated by servicemembers.

Retiree's spouse wins motorcycle

AAFES Public Affairs

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service named Alice Ginter, a retiree's spouse living in Crofton, Md., winner of the World Wrestling Entertainment and Mayhem custom chopper sweepstakes.

The drawing featured WWE Diva Victoria.

"This is for you Alice, congratulations on the bike," Victoria said. "I hope you enjoy it. Take care of it – I'll miss it!"

Ginter is married to Army retiree Charles Ginter.

The Ginters shop at the Fort Meade Post Exchange and will receive their prize at the exchange before Christmas.

USAA-ARM FORCES COMM.
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Black Only
#497851 & 497854/Auto Event

VALASSIS
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Black Only
Cellular One/#4350/12-10-04





Military couples renew wedding vows on TV



By Tammy M. Jarrett
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — She dreamed of a big church wedding complete with a white gown, fancy cake and lots of family and friends sharing her special moment.

But when that day came, there was no crowd, no church or three-tier cake, just Wendy Quigley in her homemade blue corduroy dress, her husband-to-be and the Justice of the Peace.

After 23 years of marriage and three children, Wendy Lewis finally got her fairy-tale wedding. She, her husband, Larry, and 17 other military couples said "I do" all over again during "Good Morning America's" vow renewal special Nov. 18 in New York City's Hammerstein Ballroom. In all, 125 couples participated in the morning show extravaganza.

This time, Wendy wore a custom-made blush pink gown with antique French ivory lace and two-inch drop sleeves by designer Tomasina. Larry, a command sergeant major stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, but deployed to Iraq, wore dress blues complete with the 3rd Cavalry hat.

"I literally got goose bumps on my back when I put it on and of course I instantly came to tears," Wendy said, referring to when Bride's magazine and Tomasina surprised her with the dress being made so soon. "The experience of making my own dress and having a dress made for me, the compar-

ison is just incredible."

Wendy was only 17 when her sweetheart, Larry, a 20-year-old Army recruit, proposed to her. They had little money but were deeply in love and wanted to get married no matter what. So they headed to the local courthouse Nov. 21, 1980.

When they arrived the courthouse was closed. "We didn't realize there were no cars parked around and we said, 'gosh nobody's around, what were we thinking?'" So we put our rings on, went back to my sister's house, told her and his mom we were not married, but everyone else thought we were," said Wendy. "We went back two days later and got married."

Parents disapproved of Echevarria marriage

Although the Lewis' wedding was blessed by their families, that was not the case, at first, for Chief Warrant Officer Hector Echevarria and his wife, Rebecca, who also renewed their vows of 12 years of marriage.

The couple were high school sweethearts and continued to date while Echevarria attended college. He later joined the Army Reserve to help pay for his college and went to basic training.

"We talked to both parents but they were not supportive because they had expectations. He was in college and I was only a senior," said Rebecca.

So the two eloped on April Fool's Day and two months later

their daughter, Mariah, was born.

"The attitudes of our families have changed. They love her. I think my family likes her more than they like me," laughed the Black Hawk pilot assigned to Company B, 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation, at Fort Stewart, Ga.

Although they have had some tough times financially, especially at the beginning of their marriage, Echevarria said love is what brought them through. "We have a lot of love in our family," he said.

Fitzgeralds kept trust in faith, each other

Faith is also the reason Sgt. 1st Class Mark Fitzgerald and his wife, Cindy, are still crazy about each other after 25 years of marriage. "We have a lot of faith in God," Cindy said. "Faith in God, Faith in Jesus and faith in each other."

The couple has known one another since they were 14 and 12. They married at the age of 18 and 16 and began their journey of raising his 2-year-old niece and their two children, while dealing with the pressures of the military.

The couple had planned to renew their vows for their 25th wedding anniversary March 7, but when his unit leaders saw an e-mail about the GMA show, they suggested he submit an entry form, said Fitzgerald, who is stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"We thank the unit for that ... being selected is also a great honor to go and do the thing we wanted to do the same time the

unit was supporting us ... we are just grateful," he said.

Soldier's persistence captures love's hand

Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Whited was just a young Soldier stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., when his wife-to-be caught his eye. He was rappelling off a 120-foot cliff when she and the neighborhood boys she was watching stopped to observe.

"I didn't want to stay but the boys wanted to stay and watch," Tonya said, "and he kept talking to me and I was real standoffish. He asked 'what do you do for fun around here and I said I go roller skating,'" she said smiling.

Whited found the local skating rink and even left a note on her car to call him. "I said 'I'm not calling GIs, no way,'" said Tonya, who was 19 at the time. After four months, he asked her to marry him.

She said she knew he was serious when he wanted to take her and her 2-year-old son to meet his parents. Three months later, they married.

Fifteen years and three children later they're still madly in love, even with the frequent deployments.

"We're always telling each other that we love each other and being there for one another because he deploys a lot," she said.

"It helps the relationship...when he comes back, there is always something new."

ANS/Jarrett

Wendy Lewis wipes away a tear as she and her husband, Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Lewis, take part in the "Good Morning America's" vow renewal special Nov. 18.

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Leisuretime ideas

Wichita:

What: Christmas on the Homefront. An engaging journey back in time that allows visitors to relive the hardships and the solidarity of Christmas during WWII.

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday Dec. 15 through Jan. 7

Where: 835 E. First St., Museum of World Treasures
Phone: (316) 263-1311
Admission: \$6-\$8

What: An Old-Fashioned Christmas. Enjoy one of Wichita's most beloved holiday traditions as the entire 17-acre site is decorated in Victorian holiday splendor. Carolers on the boardwalks, hot cider and chocolate in the saloon, crafts for children, dance performances by the Dixie Lee Dance Troupe and Varieties and Entre Nous Victorian Dancers, skits and scenarios by the Cowtown Cowboys, music by the Harmonica Hombres, re-enactments of holiday traditions, and visits from Saint Nicholas complete the festivities. A special holiday meal is available. To reserve your meal, call (316) 264-0671, ext. 100.

When: 6 to 9:30 p.m. Dec. 10-11

Where: 1871 Sim Park Drive, Old Cowtown Museum

Phone: (316) 264-6398
Admission: Adults \$7.50; youth (4-14) \$5.50; ages 3 and younger free. Members no charge. Group rates are available.

What: Illuminations. Holiday lights, seasonal music, children's crafts, food and beverages, visits with Santa.

When: 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 10-11

Where: 701 Amidon, Botanical, The Wichita Gardens
Phone: (316) 264-0448
Admission: \$2.50 to \$5

Lyons:

What: Christmas Bazaar. Various crafts and baked goods

for the holiday. Santa visits and leaves to get ready for the evening lighted parade.

When: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 11

Where: Rice County Community Foundation
Phone: (620) 257-2842 of (866) 257-2842
Admission: Free

Beaumont:

What: Motorcycle Ride-In Breakfast second Sunday of each month.

When: Dec. 12

Where: 11651 SE Main, Beaumont Hotel
Phone: (620) 843-2422
Admission: Free

Edgerton:

What: A Country School Christmas. Experience a one-room school Christmas celebration. Enjoy a traditional program, make an ornament, enjoy refreshments.

When: 1 to 4 p.m., Dec. 11

Where: Lanesfield School Historic Site

Phone: (913) 893-6645

Admission: Free

Lawrence:

What: University of Kansas Vespers. Holiday tradition featuring University of Kansas Symphony Orchestra and choir performing seasonal music.

When: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12

Where: 1600 Stewart Drive, Lied Center of Kansas

Phone: (785) 864-2787

Admission: fee charged

Leavenworth:

What: Christmas Candlelight Vintage Homes Tour. Tour of six to eight vintage homes, plus the Carroll Mansion, all decorated in Christmas splendor throughout the oldest city in Kansas.

When: 1 to 8 p.m. Dec. 12

Where: Citywide
Phone: (913) 682-7759 or (800) 844-4114

Admission: fee charged

Theme park

continued from page 20

Silver Dollar City presents its biggest show ever, "A Dickens' Christmas Carol," an original adaptation of the famous classic by Charles Dickens, with elaborate sets and two flying systems for stunning visual effects. Elements include flying spirits, vanishing ghosts, revolving scenery, pyrotechnic special effects and scenic projections. The production presents the heartwarming

Christmas story with a wisecracking Ghost of Christmas Past and a musical emphasis. "A Dickens' Christmas Carol" showcases a talented cast of 14 actors accompanied by a live band.

A returning favorite feature of the festival is the re-creation of the ancient town of Bethlehem, which fills the Red Gold Heritage Hall with themed sets, music and handmade crafts from Israel. The

Living Nativity is staged upon a two-story theater-in-the-round, presenting an inspiring look at the story of the birth of Christ.

Each day at 5:30 p.m., guests join together on the square for the lighting of the five-story special effects Christmas tree. Silver Dollar City's unique creation, the tree presents classics such as "Carol of the Bells" and Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" in a spectacular light and sound show. The performances begin with the tree-lighting ceremony and continue every 15 minutes until park closing.

The tastes of the season are in abundance throughout the park, from a prime rib buffet at the Mill Restaurant to traditional favorites such as turkey and gravy with cran-apple raisin dressing. Festive holiday treats include old-fashioned chocolate and marshmallow s'mores, gingerbread cookies, apple dumplings with cinnamon ice cream, hot wassail, cappuccino and creamy hot chocolate.

Holiday shows include Cedric Benoit and the Cajun Connection performing in a Cajun-style holiday show, and the rollicking Christmas comedy "Frontier Follies" in the Silver Dollar Saloon. The Cumberland Quartet and Keith Allen, appearing as "Rednecks," return in "A Christmas Homecoming."

Especially for kids, Tinker, the 17-foot talking Christmas tree, talks, sings and interacts with kids. Santa himself is available to hear requests, and kids can make ornaments, create Christmas cards and decorate Christmas cookies.

Guests are invited to join in singing Christmas carols at the historic Wilderness Church and ride the Silver Dollar Sing-Along Steam Train.

During An Old Time Christmas, Silver Dollar City is open Thursdays through 1 to 9 p.m. Sundays and noon to 10 p.m. Saturdays Dec. 10-19, Dec. 22-23 and Dec. 26-30.

For ticket information and schedules, call (800) 831-4FUN. Information and tickets are available at the gate or through the Web site at www.silverdollarcity.com.

Two-day military adult tickets cost \$36.20. Children 11 and younger are admitted free.



Silver Dollar City Photo

The holiday light parade is one of the colorful features of An Old Time Christmas at Silver Dollar City. The annual theme park season also features a musical production of "A Dickens' Christmas Carol" and other holiday shows.

Arts center presents 'Carol'

Manhattan Arts Center

The Manhattan Arts Center will present Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" at 8 p.m. Dec. 11 and 2 p.m. Dec. 12.

The comedic staged reading will include music and audience participation.

Directed by Penny Senften, the show will feature performances by Lew Shelton, Roger Adams, Dave Smit, Charles Faulk, Paul Berger, Suzy Dotson, Dwight and Mary Tolar, and many more MAC theatre veterans.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. They can be purchased at the Manhattan Arts Center.

The center is located at 1520 Poyntz and box office hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, call 537-4420. For more information on this and other performances at the Manhattan Arts Center, visit its Web site at www.manhattanarts.org.

At the movies:

The Barlow Post Theater Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Shows begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for Children 5 to 11 years old and free for children under age 5, except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

Dec. 10 — Ray (PG-13)

Dec. 11 — 2 p.m., The Incredibles (PG)

Dec. 11 — Alfie (R)

Dec. 12 — Closed For Employee Christmas Night

Dec. 16 — Ray (PG-13)

Dec. 17 — The Incredibles (PG)

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Travel & Fun in Kansas

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America's Warfighting Center

Friday, December 10, 2004

Leisuretime ideas

Hutchinson:

What: Downtown Holiday Celebration. Celebrate the holiday season with carriage rides, Santa and Mrs. Claus, caroling and a reading of "The Night Before Christmas."

When: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 16

Where: Avenue A Park and 119 S. Main (Parkside Place)
Phone: (620) 694-2677
Admission: Free

What: Luminaria. Enchanting evening of hayrack rides, refreshments and glowing luminarias.

When: 6 to 10 p.m. Dec. 18

Where: Hyde Park
Phone: (620) 662-1517
Admission: Free

What: One Way Ticket to Christmas. The Hutchinson Theatre Guild presents an original musical play written by Hutchinson's Jacque Eaton.

When: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10-11, 2 p.m. Dec. 12

Where: 18 E. First, Historic Fox Theatre
Phone: (620) 662-9202
Admission: \$7

Wichita:

What: New Year's Eve at the Wichita Art Museum. New Year's Eve at newly renovated museum.

When: 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31-Jan. 1

Where: 1400 W. Museum Blvd., Wichita Art Museum
Phone: (316) 268-4921
Admission: charged

Salina:

What: A Christmas Carol. This special holiday production brings the Dickens' classic to life on stage.

When: 8 p.m. Dec. 10-11; 2 p.m. Dec. 12

Where: 303 E. Iron, Salina Community Theatre
Phone: (785) 827-6126 or (877) 414-2367
Admission: Adult \$10; child \$5

Blue Rapids:

What: Lighted Horsedrawn Parade

When: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11

Where: Public Square
Phone: (785) 363-7715
Admission: Free

Lindsborg:

What: Lucia Fest. Traditional 18th-century Swedish Christmas celebration.

When: Dec. 11

Where: Downtown
Phone: (785) 227-3706 or (888) 227-2227
Admission: Free

Bonner Springs:

What: Santa's Express. Enjoy an old-fashioned Christmas in the country. Catch the hayride to Farm Town USA. Stroll through decorated historic buildings and visit costumed living history characters. Give Santa your wish list in the depot and ride his miniature train. Hot cocoa and cookies served.

When: 1 to 6 p.m. Dec. 11, 12, 18 and 19

Where: 630 Hall of Fame Drive, National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame
Phone: (913) 721-1075
Admission: \$4-\$5

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Holiday ablaze



More than four million lights and a five-story special effects Christmas tree await Silver Dollar City guests during An Old Time Christmas. The festival's dazzling features include a holiday light parade, musical production of "A Dickens' Christmas Carol" and 17-foot talking Christmas tree. Silver Dollar City Photo

Theme park lights up Christmas sky

Special to the Post
Silver Dollar City

Silver Dollar City presents one of the nation's most spectacular holiday festivals, profiled in 2003 as one of the top 10 places in the country to have a bright Christmas by USA Today and the A&E Network, and spotlighted in the Wall Street Journal.

An Old Time Christmas features a dazzling holiday light parade, a dramatic five-story special effects Christmas tree and a popular musical production of the famous classic, "A Dickens' Christmas Carol."

During An Old Time Christmas, the theme park is transformed into an evening wonderland with more than four million lights and 1,000 decorated Christmas trees. The colorful holiday light parade, with brilliant musical floats, glides through the streets of the city

each evening. The animated float Santa's Sleigh leads the parade of floats, including Santa's Toy Shop, Jack-in-the-Box and the Little Engine That Could.

Another popular feature lighting up the square is the five-story special effects Christmas tree, which glows with more than 250,000 lights coordinated to blaze with the musical movements of Christmas songs.

See Theme park, Page 19

'Little Apple' plans big bash

New Year's celebration on tap

Ten, nine, eight, the fuse is lit and organizers are reminding travelers to make their reservations soon. The Little Apple New Year's Eve Celebration's Web site this year is www.littleapple-newyears.com and serves as the traveler's heads-up to event happenings and special offers.

Drawing on the example of the "Big Apple," last year Manhattan was the site of the first Little Apple New Year's Eve Celebration. It drew an unexpectedly large crowd of 4,800 people who shouted the countdown to the ball drop, sang Auld Lang Syne and celebrated under a shower of fireworks and laser beams as Aggieville was transformed into a Times Square look-alike.

"This event seems to have a life of its own," said Kate Watson, co-founder of Manhattan Festivals, which produces the community event.

"We'll be updating information quickly and often on the Web site and through the media so our citizens, visitors, business and organizations can stay on top of it all. We also want our Manhattan-area residents to be the first to know about specials, and they should

book hotel rooms early, if they have family or guests coming in from out of town. Hotels are filling up fast and our 'Web, Wings and Wheels Special' has a deadline of Dec. 15," she said.

Again this year, the Little Apple New Year's Eve Celebration will be the culmination of a day of shopping, fun, food and party atmosphere throughout Manhattan.

The traditional elements back this year are fireworks, laser works, Tribute to the Troops and Auld Lang Syne.

New this year will be expanded staging, big screens and sound; video clip retrospective; live TV coverage by NBC affiliate Channel 27; and Little Apple New Year's Eve bags of official favors, noisemakers, etc.

Heralding 2005, the Little Apple New Year's Eve Celebration will also serve as the kick-off for Manhattan and Riley County's Sesquicentennial year festivities.

"All the major sponsors are on board again this year," said Steve Levin of Varney's, the lead sponsor of the event. "It's a great way to top off the year for our community."

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